

# *Reflections*

A COMMEMORATION OF THE IRISH WOMEN OF 1923  
MAR CHOMÓRADH AR MHNÁ ÉIREANNACHA 1923



## Reflections - A Commemoration of the Irish Women of 1923

Galway City Council, Galway Public Libraries and Galway City Museum working together are proud to present “Reflections,” a programme commemorating the remarkable Irish women of 1923 as part of the Decade of Centenaries 2012 - 2023 initiative, supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports, and Media.

This multifaceted project, in development since August 2023, is a heartfelt tribute to the women who shaped Irish history during a pivotal era. It has offered a platform for in-depth discussions, artist residencies, and creative exploration of their lives and contributions. Artists in residence Aine Philips, Emily Cullen and Tracy Bruen

“Reflections” is not just a historical tribute, but a creative interpretation of the significant contributions made by women during that era. It stands as a testament to the strength, resilience, and creativity of Irish women in the past and present.

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## Reflections - Mar Chomóradh ar Mhná Éireannacha 1923

Cuireann sé bród ar Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe, Leabharlanna Poiblí na Gaillimhe agus Músaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe go bhfuil siad ag obair le chéile an clár “Reflections” (Machnaimh) a léiriú a dhéanann comóradh ar mhná suntasacha Éireann na bliana 1923 mar chuid de thionscnamh Céad Bliain an Deich mBliain 2012 - 2023, arna thacú ag an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán.

Is ómós ó chroí é an tionscadal ilghnéitheach seo, arna fhorbairt ó Mí Lúnasa na bliana 2023, do na mná siúd a a chuir múnla stair na hÉireann ar fáil le linn na ré ríthábhachtacha sin. Tugann sé deis dúinn ardán a chur le chéile le haghaidh dianphlé, cónaitheachtaí ealaíontóirí, agus iniúchadh cruthaitheach ar saolta na mban sin agus a geuid oibre. Siad na hEalaíontóirí Conaithe ná Aine Philips, Emily Cullen agus Tracy Bruen.

Ní hamháin gur ómós stairiúil é “Reflections”, ach is léiriú cruthaitheach é chomh maith ar an méid suntasach a rinne mná le linn na ré sin. Is teist ar neart, ar theacht aniar, agus ar chruthaitheacht mhná na hÉireann san am thart agus san am anois.

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## Programme

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‘Reflections Talk’ - The Mick Lally Theatre will host presentations and discussions featuring scholars and experts Mary Clancy, Thérèse McIntyre, and Dr. Angela Griffith on November 28, 12 - 2.30 pm. These discussions will explore the lives of Irish women in 1923, covering various dimensions, including cultural, social, and political, aspects, offering an understanding of the historical context.

Artistic Collaborations: Galway-based artists Áine Philips, Tracy Bruen, and Emily Cullen have immersed themselves in the history and stories of Irish women from 1923. They have worked with archival materials, historical artifacts and collaborated with communities to co-create original works. These artists have established three new collectives and groups to celebrate and memorialize the contributions of women in Irish history.

‘Reflections Performance’: a performance of Visual Art, Literature, and Music, December 7, from 7 pm – 8.30 pm, at St Nicholas Collegiate Church will showcase the Dun Emer Eastside Collective’s visually stunning banners led by visual artist Áine Philips. These banners celebrate and remember the women of 1923 and 100 years of Irish women’s achievements. They will be paraded from Shop Street to Saint Nicholas’s Collegiate Church and serve as a backdrop for musical and spoken word performances.

Comhrá na mBan Centenary Westside Writers Group: led by writer Emily Cullen, this diverse group will present boldly imaginative poems in a vibrant performance, bridging a fluid conversation across time between Irish women of 1923 and the contemporary moment.

The Women’s Centenary Choir Galway City: led by musician and singer-songwriter Tracy Bruen, this multicultural and multigenerational women’s choir will sing songs honoring the women of the past, present, and future reflecting the diversity and strength of the women of Galway City in 2023.

This programme of events, reflecting the creative work of women in 2023, pays homage to our past and serves as a catalyst for contemporary discussions and actions relating to gender equality and women’s rights.

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## Clár

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‘Reflections Talk’ (Comhrá Machnaimh) – I gComóradh Mná Éireann na bliana 1923: Déanfaidh Amharclann Mick Lally léirithe agus díospóireachtaí a óstáil ina mbeidh na scoláirí agus na saineolaithe Mary Clancy, Thérèse McIntyre, agus an Dr. Angela Griffith ag glacadh páirte ar an 28 Samhain, 12 - 2.30 in. Déanfaidh na cainteanna seo iniúchadh ar shaol mná na hÉireann sa bhliain 1923, ag tagairt le gnéithe éagsúla na linne, lena n-áirítear na gnéithe cultúrtha, sóisialta agus polaitiúla a gcuidíonn le tuiscint a fhail ar an gcomhthéacs stairiúil.

Comhoibrithe Ealaíne: I ndiaidh dóibh tumadh isteach i stair agus i scéalta mná Éireann na bliana 1923, d’oibrigh Áine Philips, Tracy Bruen, agus Emily Cullen, ealaíontóirí atá lonnaithe i nGaillimh, le hábhair chartlainne agus le déantáin stairiúla agus chuaigh siad i gcomhar le pobail na háite d’fhonn bunsaothair ealaíne chruthú. Chuir na na healaíontóirí trí ghrúpa nua le chéile le haghaidh ceiliúradh agus cuimhneamh a dhéanamh ar obair na mban i stair na hÉireann .

‘Reflections Performance’ (Léiriú na Machnamh): Léiriú na hAmharcealaíne, na Litríochta agus an Cheoil, an 7 Nollaig, 7 – 8.30 in, ina mbeidh na bratacha iontacha de chuid Mheitheal Taobh Thoir Dún Eimhire, faoi stiúr an amharcealaíontóra Áine Philips, le feiceáil i Séipéal Choláisteach San Nioclás. Déanann na bratacha seo ceiliúradh agus cuimhne ar mhná na bliana 1923 agus éachtaí 100 bliain na mban in Éirinn. Rachaidh siad ar pharáid ó Shráid na Siopaí go dtí Séipéal Choláisteach San Nioclás agus iad ag feidhmiú mar chúla do léirithe ceoil agus ó bhéal.

Meitheal Scríbhneoirí Taobh Thiar Comóradh Céad Bliain Comhrá na mBan: Faoi stiúir an scríbhneora Emily Cullen, cuirfidh an grúpa ilghnéitheach seo dánta samhlaíochta dána i láthair i léiriú bríomhar, ag ceangal comhrá líofa idir mná na hÉireann ón mbliain 1923 le mná an lae inniu .

Cór Céad Bliain Mná Chathair na Gaillimhe: Faoi stiúir an cheoltóra agus an amhránaí-chumadóra Tracy Bruen, canfaidh an cór ban ilchultúrtha agus ilghluíne seo amhráin a thugann ómós do mhná na lae thart, an lae inniu agus an lae le teacht a léireoidh éagsúlacht agus neart mná Chathair na Gaillimhe sa bhliain 2023.

Tugann clár seo na n-imeachtaí, a léiríonn saothar cruthaitheach mná na bliana 2023 ómós don am atá thart agus feidhmíonn sé mar spreagadh don phlé agus do na ghníomhaíochtaí comhaimseartha a mbaineann le comhionannas inscne agus cearta na mban.

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## Talks

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### Mary Clancy

#### 1923: Contexts of Conflict, Women in Politics, and Social Life

Mary Clancy has worked as a lecturer in the Department of Political Science and Sociology in NUI, Galway. Her research interests are women's political, social, labour and life histories. She has written extensively on Irish women's political history, life-stories in European contexts, has edited *Saothar: Journal of the Irish Labour History Society* and contributes to various documentaries.

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### Dr Angela Griffith

#### Crafting A National Identity - Dun Emer, Cuala, Contemporaries & Free State Ireland

Angela Griffith is an assistant professor in the History of Art and Architecture Department, at Trinity College Dublin. She has written and presented on Irish Modern and Contemporary Art. Publications include the co-edited volume *Harry Clarke and Artistic Visions of the New Irish State*, and most recently Diane Copperwhite *Onomatopoeia* and Artemis Alexiou and Rose Roberto edited, *Women in Print I*, on Elizabeth Yeats and the Cuala Press. A former Irish Art Research Centre Director, Angela is now the academic lead for the Cuala Press Project, Schooner Foundation, TCD.

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## Comhrá

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### Mary Clancy

#### 1923: Comhthéacsanna na Coimhlinte, Mná sa Pholaitíocht, agus sa tSaol Sóisialta

Is léachtóir i Roinn na hEolaíochta Polaitiúla agus na Socheolaíochta in OÉ, Gaillimh í Mary Clancy. Siad ábhair spéise a cuid taighde ná stair pholaitiúil, stair shóisialta, stair oibre agus stair saoil na mban. Tá mórán scríofa aici ar stair pholaitiúil mná na hÉireann, ar scéalta saoil acu i gcomhthéacsanna na hEorpa; tá eagarthóireacht déanta aici ar *Saothar: Journal of the Irish Labour History Society* agus cuireann sí le cláir faisnéise éagsúla.

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### An Dr Angela Griffith

#### Féiniúlacht Náisiúnta á Chruthú - Dún Eimhire, Preas Cuala, a gCuid Chomhaoiseach agus Saorstát Éireann

Ollamh cúnata i Roinn Stair na hEalaíne agus na hAiltireachta, i gColáiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath is ea Angela Griffith. Tá léirithe scríofa agus curtha i láthair aici ar Nua-Ealaín agus ar Ealaín Chomhaimsire na hÉireann. I measc na bhfoilseachán aici, tá an t-imleabhar comheagraithe *Harry Clarke agus Artistic Visions of the New Irish State*, agus le déanaí Diane Copperwhite *Onomatopoeia* agus *Women in Print I*, ar Elizabeth Yeats agus ar Phreas Cuala arna eagrú ag Artemis Alexiou agus Rose Roberto. Is iar-Stiúrthóir ar Ionad Taighde Ealaíne na hÉireann í Angela, agus tá sí ina ceannaire acadúil anois ar Thionscadal Preas Cuala, san Fhionúireacht Schooner i gColáiste na Tríonóide.

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## Thérèse McIntyre

### Songs from the Period of Conflict, 1919-1923: From a National to a Local Canon

Thérèse McIntyre is a long-term PhD Candidate researching songs, ballads, and social memory. In 2016, Thérèse worked on the '1916 Song Project' as part of the programme of national commemorations. In 2014 she won the 'World's Best Radio Programme in Education' at the New York Festivals Radio Awards for the series 'Herosongs' which was based upon her doctoral research. Thérèse main area of research focuses on how historical songs and ballads affect the social memory of the community in which they are sung and how historical knowledge is transmitted through the songs.

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## Thérèse McIntyre

### Amhráin ó Ré na Coimhlinte, 1919-1923: Ón gCanóin Náisiúnta go dtí an Chanóin Áitiúil

Is Iarrthóir PhD fadtéarmach í Thérèse McIntyre a dhéanann taighde ar amhráin, ar bhailéid agus ar an gcuimhne shóisialta. Sa bhlian 2016, d'oibrigh Thérèse ar an '1916 Song Project' mar chuid den chlár cuimhneacháin náisiúnta. Sa bhliain 2014, bhuaigh sí an gradam 'World's Best Radio Programme in Education' ag Gradaim Raidió na bhFéilte Nua Eabhrach don tsraith 'Herosongs' a bhí bunaithe ar a cuid taighde dochtúireachta. Díríonn príomhréimse taighde Thérèse ar an gcaoi a dtéann amhráin agus bailéid stairiúla i bhfeidhm ar chuimhne shóisialta an phobail ina gcantar iad agus ar an gcaoi a sheoltar eolas stairiúil trí na hamhráin.

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## Artworks & Process

### The Dun Emer Eastside Collective Makers Group - Celebrating and Memorialising Women of 1923

Led by visual artist Áine Philips, the Dun Emer Eastside Collective is a remarkable assembly of East Galway City women who have united to craft a series of inspiring and commemorative banners. The group's name pays homage to the influential craft studio, Dun Emer Guild, established in 1902 by Evelyn Gleeson and Susan and Elizabeth Yeats. The innovative designs created by these pioneering women have served as the inspiration for the contemporary banners produced in the context of this project. The collective includes dedicated members such as Helen Flynn, Helen Monaghan, Petra Breathnach, Rowena Carr, Anita Dillon, Clare Smyth, Demelza Lynn, Lizzy Dargle, Marielle MacLeman, and Sona Smedkova. The group's collaborative spirit has also welcomed additional participants throughout the project's development.

#### The Performance

The Dun Emer Eastside Collective presents three visually captivating banners celebrating the lives of women in 1923 and the accomplishments of Irish women over the past century. Three large-scale banners paraded from Eyre Square to Saint Nicholas's Collegiate Church serve as a poignant backdrop for the musical and spoken word performances.

#### The Process

Workshops have taken place at Ballybane Library since September. Local women have worked collaboratively to design and create these banners, celebrating a century of Irish women's history, with a particular focus on women in the west of Ireland and the unique stories of those from 1923. The visual style of the banners is influenced by the Dún Emer Guild and Cuala Press, and they incorporate imagery and motifs inspired by the work

## Saothair Ealaíne agus Próiseas

### Grúpa na nDéantóirí de chuid Mheitheal Taobh Thoir Dún Eimhire - Ceiliúradh agus Cuimhne á Dhéanamh ar Mhná na Bliana 1923

Faoi stiúir an amharcealaíontóir aÁine Philips, is grúpa iontach mná as Oirthear Chathair na Gaillimhe é Meitheal Taobh Thoir Dún Eimhire a bhailigh le chéile chun sraith bratach spreagtha comórtha a dhéanamh. Tugann ainm an ghrúpa ómós don stiúideo ceardaíochta ar ardtionchar, Cuallacht Dun Eimhire, a bhunaigh Evelyn Gleeson agus Susan agus Elizabeth Yeats sa bhliain 1902. B'ionpsioráid iad na dearáí nuálacha arna gcruthú ag na mná ceannródaíocha seo do na brataigh comhaimseartha a ndearnadh i gcomhthéacs an tionscadail seo. Áirítear ar an meitheal baill dhíograsaigh mar Helen Flynn, Helen Monaghan, Petra Breathnach, Rowena Carr, Anita Dillon, Clare Smyth, Demelza Lynn, Lizzy Dargle, Marielle MacLeman, agus Sona Smedkova. Chuir chomhspiorad an ghrúpa fáilte freisin roimh rannpháirtithe breise agus an tionscadal á fhorbairt acu.

#### An Léiriú

Cuireann Meitheal Taobh Thoir Dún Eimhire trí bhratach ar ardamharc i láthair a dhéanann saol mná na bliana 1923 agus éachtaí mná na hÉireann le céad bliain anuas a cheiliúradh. Feidhmíonn paráid na trí bhratach ar mhórscáil ón bhFaiche Mhór go dtí Eaglais Choláisteach San Nioclás mar chúlra corraitheach do na léirithe ceoil agus ó bhéal.

#### An Próiseas

Tá ceardlanna ar siúl i Leabharlann an Bhaile Bháin ó Mhí Meán Fómhair. D'oibrigh mná na háite le chéile chun na brataigh seo a dhearadh agus a chur le chéile, ag ceiliúradh céad bliain stair mná na hÉireann, le béim faoi leith ar mhná in iarthar na hÉireann agus ar scéalta ar leith na ndaoine sin ón mbliain 1923. Imríonn stíl Cuallacht Dun Eimhire agus Preas Cuala tionchar físiúil ar na mbratach agus déanann siad íomhánna agus móitífeanna

of influential women artists from a century ago, such as Grace Plunkett, Evie Hone and Mainie Jellett.

The banners also feature grids of smaller patches, crafted by individual collective members and invited contributors, portraying various aspects of Irish women's history, selected by the creators.

These banners express feminist views on Irish history, highlighting shared traumas and women's collective artistic production over the past 100 years.

## The Banners

Saint Brigid's Banner is a harmonious fusion of the ancient pagan goddess and the 4th-century Christian saint, inspired by an Evie Hone and Cuala Press design dating back to approximately 1930. In this exquisite representation, Brigid envelops and safeguards women and children within her monumental cloak. On the reverse side, a grid of individual patches, crafted by the collective and invited artists, reflects the diverse facets of women's history and experiences spanning from 1923 to 2023.

The "100 Years of Irish Women Banner" jubilantly celebrates the centenary of Irish women's achievements with a central image portraying female hands extended in a gesture of sustenance, tribute, and openness. The motto "Ní Neart Go Chuir Le Chéile," translating to "No Strength Without Unity," is prominently featured. On the reverse side, a spiral of numerous names of distinguished Irish women from 1923 to 2023 is bordered by feminist motifs and emblems.

Inspired by a Dún Emer Guild postcard design from around 1905, the "Tree of Hope Banner" pays homage to the Yeats sisters, Elizabeth and Susan, as depicted by their sister-in-law Mary Cottenham Yeats. Elizabeth is portrayed carrying books, while Susan holds an embroidered garment as they embark on the journey to establish a female Arts and Crafts enterprise during the dawn of a new Independent Ireland. On the reverse side, a contemporary interpretation features an abstract womb-angel, surrounded by patches created by the collective and invited artists. These patches represent the diverse facets of women's history and experiences from 1923 to 2023.

spreagtha ag saothar ealaíontóirí mná a raibh tionchar acu céad bliain ó shin, ar nós Grace Plunkett, Evie Hone agus Mainie Jellett, a imeascú iontu.

Le feiceáil ar na brataigh freisin, tá eangacha na bpaistí beaga, arna gcruthú ag baill ar leith na meithile agus ag rannpháirtithe ar tugadh cuireadh dóibh, a léiríonn gnéithe éagsúla i stair mná na hÉireann, arna roghnú ag na cruthaitheoirí. Léiríonn na brataigh seo tuairimí feimineacha ar stair na hÉireann, ag cur béime ar chomhtrámaí agus ar chomhléiriithe ealaíne na mban le 100 bliain anuas.

## Na Brataigh

Cumasc séimh den bhandia ársa págánach agus an naomh Críostaí ón 4ú haois atá i mBratach Naomh Bríd, arna spreagadh ag dearadh Evie Hone agus Preas Cuala a théann siar go dtí thart ar an mbliain 1930. San léiriú fíorálainn seo, clúdaíonn agus cosnaíonn Bríd na mná agus na leanaí laistigh dá brat ollmhór. Ar an taobh eile de, léiríonn eangach na bpaistí ar leith, arna ndéanamh ag an meitheal agus ag na healaíontóirí ar tugadh cuireadh dóibh, gnéithe éagsúla de stair agus de thaithí na mban ón mbliain 1923 go dtí an bhliain 2023.

Déanann "Bratach 100 Bliain Mná na hÉireann" ceiliúradh comóradh céad bliain ar éachtaí mná na hÉireann le láríomhá ag léiriú lámha sínte na mban mar chomhartha cothaithe, ómóis agus oscailteacht leis an mana "Ní Neart Go Chuir Le Chéile," le feiceáil faoina bhun. Ar chúl, tá bís d'ainmneacha mná mór le rá na hÉireann ón mbliain 1923 go dtí an bhliain 2023 agus le móitífeanna agus suaithentais feimineacha ar an imeall.

Arna spreagadh ag dearadh na gcártaí poist de chuid Chuallacht Dhún Eimhire ó thart ar an bliain 1905, is comhartha ómóis é "Bratach Crann an Dóchais" do na deirfiúracha Yeats, Elizabeth agus Susan, mar a thaispeánann a ndeirfiúr céile Mary Cottenham Yeats. Léirítear Elizabeth agus í ag iompar leabhair, agus tá brat bróidnithe á chaitheamh ag Susan agus iad ag tabhairt faoi bhanghnólacht Ealaíon agus Ceardaíochta a bhunú le linn blianta tosaigh Éireann Neamhspleách. Ar chúl, is féidir léiriú comhaimseartha a fheiceáil ar bhroinn-aingeal teibí, le paistí arna gcruthú ag ealaíontóirí na meithle agus ar chuireadh timpeall air. Léiríonn na paistí seo gnéithe éagsúla stair agus taithí na mban ón mbliain 1923 go dtí an bhliain 2023.

## Comhrá na mBan Centenary Westside Writers Group - Poetic Conversations Across Time

Led by writer Emily Cullen, Comhrá na mBan is a 14-strong creative writing group comprised of diverse, Galway-based women with a shared passion for Irish history and creative writing. The group's name is a tribute to the lively and supportive conversations that have been integral to their workshops, revolving around the history of the War of Independence and Civil War, family histories, and the often-overlooked stories and contributions of Irish women in 1923. The group comprises talented individuals, including Bern Butler, Bernadette Browne, Marion Cox, Bernie Crawford, Emily Cullen (facilitator), Evelyne Diskin, Caroline Dyer, Jean MacSorley, Sighle Meehan, Breeda Murphy, Nuala Ni Fhlathain, Cassie Smith-Christmas, Mary Tobin, and Anne Treacy.

### The Performance

Comhrá na mBan presents a vibrant performance, featuring a selection of boldly imaginative poems. This performance is conceived as a fluid conversation across time between the Irish women of 1923 and the contemporary moment.

### The Process

Comhrá na mBan's workshops have taken place at Westside Library since September. The focus has been on developing creative writing skills alongside an exploration of historical materials from 1923. The workshops commenced by helping participants find their unique voices as contemporary poets, harnessing the rhetorical power of repetition in 'list poems' and shaping 'object poems' inspired by the Galway City Museum. The workshops later delved deeper into Irish history and poetic form, leading to the creation of 'villanelles' and 'persona poems' in the voices of notable Irish women from 1923. The group has gained a valuable range of poetic skills and a deeper appreciation of the pivotal role women played in shaping Irish history.

## Meitheal Scríbhneoirí Taobh Thiar Comóradh Céad Bliain Comhrá na mBan - Comhráite Filíochta Thar na Réite

Faoi stiúir an scríbhneora Emily Cullen, is grúpa scríbhneoireachta cruthaitheach 14 dhuine é Comhrá na mBan ar chomhdhéanamh ag mná ilghnéitheacha atá lonnaithe i nGaillimh agus a bhfuil chomh-phaisean acu do stair na hÉireann agus don scríbhneoireacht chruthaitheach. Ómós atá in ainm an ghrúpa do na comhráite bríomhara tacúla a bhí mar phríomhghné dá gcuid cheardlanna agus iad dírithe ar stair Chogadh na Saoirse agus Cogadh na gCarad, ar stair an teaghlaigh, agus ar scéalta na bliana 1923 chomh maith leis an méid leath-dhearmadta ar ghlac mná na hÉireann páirt iontu. I measc an ghrúpa cumasach seo, bhí Bern Butler, Bernadette Browne, Marion Cox, Bernie Crawford, Emily Cullen (éascaitheoir), Evelyne Diskin, Caroline Dyer, Jean MacSorley, Sighle Meehan, Breeda Murphy, Nuala Ni Fhlathain, Cassie Smith-Christmas, Mary Tobin, agus Anne Treacy.

### An Léiriú

Cuireann Comhrá na mBan léiriú bríomhar i láthair, ina bhfuil rogha dána na ndánta samhlaíocha mar príomhchuid de. Ceaptar an léiriú seo mar chomhrá sreabhach thar imeacht an ama idir mná na hÉireann ón mbliain 1923 agus mná an lae inniu.

### An Próiseas

Tá ceardlanna Comhrá na mBan ar siúl i Leabharlann an Taobh Thiar ó Mhí Meán Fómhair. Díriodh ar scileanna na scríbhneoireachta cruthaitheacha a fhorbairt i dteannta le hiniúchadh a dhéanamh ar ábhair stairiúla ón mbliain 1923. Cuireadh tús leis na ceardlanna trí tacaíocht a thabhairt do na rannpháirtithe a gcuid ghuthanna ar leith mar fhilí comhaimseartha a aimsiú, trí leas a bhaint as cumhacht reitriciúil an athrá i 'ndánta an liosta' agus trí mhúnlú na 'ndánta réada' arna spreagadh. ag Músaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe. Chuaigh na ceardlanna ar thuras níos doimhne isteach i stair na hÉireann agus i bhfoirm fhileata na hÉireann, rud a d'fhág gur cruthaíodh 'villanellanna' agus 'dánta an phearsain' i nglórtha mná suntasacha na hÉireann ón mbliain 1923. Bhain an grúpa raon tábhachtach na scileanna fileata agus na léirthuisinne níos doimhne as an bpríomhról a d'imir mná i múnlú stair na hÉireann.

## The Women's Centenary Choir Galway City - Celebrating Unity in Diversity

The Women's Centenary Choir Galway City, led by musician and singer-songwriter Tracy Bruen, was formed exclusively for this project. This 40-strong choir is a multicultural and multigenerational ensemble that will perform songs celebrating the women of the past, present, and future. The performance will be in multiple languages, reflecting and celebrating the diversity of Galway City's women in 2023.

### The Performance

The Women's Centenary Choir's repertoire of songs encapsulates the essence of a century of women, celebrating their interconnectedness, the strength of their communities, their shared experiences, and their collective resilience. This musical journey is complemented by a captivating performance from the "Shabbach Girls," an exceptionally talented and dynamic band comprising young women who will add a contemporary flair to the evening's festivities.

Tracy has composed and arranged an original song specifically for this occasion. This unique composition will be beautifully interpreted by Guth na mBan, a select ensemble of women drawn from various choirs across Galway City. Their harmonious voices will resonate with the audience, adding depth and emotion to the performance.

## Cór Céad Bliain Mná Chathair na Gaillimhe - An t-Aontas á Cheiliúradh san Éagsúlacht

Faoi stiúr an cheoltóra agus an amhránaí-chumadóra Tracy Bruen, cuireadh Cór Céad Bliain Mná Chathair na Gaillimhe ar bun go háirithe don tionscadal seo. Is ensemble ilchultúrtha agus ilghluíne é an cór 40 duine seo a sheinnann amhráin ina ndéantar mná na laetha a bhí, san am atá inniu ann agus san am atá le teacht a cheiliúradh. Déanfar an léiriú a chur i láthair i dteangacha éagsúla, ag léiriú agus ag ceiliúradh éagsúlacht mná Chathair na Gaillimhe sa bhliain 2023.

### An Léiriú

Cuimsíonn stór amhrán Chór Céad Bliain na mBan bunbhri céad bliain na mban, ag déanamh an idirnascthadh, neart na bpobal, an chomhthaithí agus an chomhathléimneacht acu a cheiliúradh. Ag tacú leis an aistear ceoil seo, beidh léiriú spreagúil ó "Shabbach Girls", banna rí-cumasach agus dinimiciúil mná óga a chuirfidh blas comhaimseartha le féilte na hoíche.

Chum agus shocraigh Tracy amhrán úrnua don ócáid seo. Déanfaidh Guth na mBan, grúpa rogha na mban ó chóir éagsúla ar fud Chathair na Gaillimhe, léirmhíniú álainn ar an saothar seo ar leith. Taitneoidh a nguthanna comhchuí leis Bainfidh an lucht féachana taitneamh as a gcuid ghuthanna comhcheoil a gcuirfidh le doimhneacht agus le meon an léirithe.

## The Process

Tracy facilitated workshops in Galway City Library throughout September, engaging with women from various backgrounds and ages to discuss the project's historical significance, explore music from the time, and dive into contemporary music that embodies the concept of the whole woman. These workshops sparked lively, passionate, and emotional conversations about the women of 1923 and the bonds that connect them to us today. The themes of shared trauma, motherhood, community, care, gratitude, strength, and resilience emerged during discussions, directly influencing an original song written by Tracy for performance by a smaller choir. Through music and community, "Reflections" aims to bring people together, inspiring unity and healing.

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## An Próiseas

D'éascaigh Tracy ceardlanna i Leabharlann Chathair na Gaillimhe i rith Mhí Meán Fómhair, ag dul i dteagmháil le mná ó chúlraí agus in aoiseanna éagsúla chun tábhacht stairiúil an tionscadail a phlé, chun ceol na ré a fhiosrú, agus chun tumadh isteach sa cheol comhaimseartha a chuimsíonn tuairim iomlán na mná. Spreag na ceardlanna seo comhráite bríomhara faoi mhná na bliana 1923 agus an baint acu le mná na linne seo. Tháinig téamaí an chomhthráma, an mháithreachais, an phobail, an chúraim, an bhuíochais, an nirt agus na hathléimneachta chun cinn le linn an chomhrá, a raibh tionchar díreach acu ar an amhrán úrnua a scríobh Tracy lena léirithe ag cór níos lú. Trí mheán an cheoil agus an phobail, tá sé mar aidhm ag "Reflections" an mhuintir a thabhairt le chéile, agus an t-aontas agus an leigheas á spreagadh.

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mná na hÉireann 1923-2023



ní dearc 30 cur le Chéile



Míle Fáilte do hÉireann 1998

Mí Beart 50 Cúil do Chéile

## The Artists

**Áine Phillips** is a performance artist based in Galway exhibiting and presenting work in Ireland and internationally since the late 80's. She has created artwork for multiple contexts; public art commissions, the street, club events, festivals, galleries, theatres, and museums with a focus on communities of place and interest. Her work deals with feminist philosophy and politics, using art to comment and make propositions on subjectivity, gender, and social change.



**Emily Cullen** is a Galway-based writer and the Meskell Poet in Residence at the University of Limerick where she lectures on the MA in Creative Writing. She has published three collections of poetry. Emily has held poetry residencies at Pobalscoil Mhic Dara, Carna, Co. Galway, Castlegar National School and the Tyrone Guthrie Centre. Commissions received include: Dromineer Literary Festival 2022, Galway County Council Decade of Commemorations Committee 2021 and Strokestown International Poetry Festival 2020.



**Tracy Bruen** is Galway Galway-based singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist. Her musical style blends and bends folk and pop with classical and theatrical influences to create compositions of power and vulnerability. Over the last ten years, Tracy has toured extensively throughout Ireland and Europe. Her debut album Mirror was released in 2017. Singles from her sophomore album, Waiting, released in January 2023, have received extensive national and regional radio play. She has supported many high profile artists such as Lisa Hannigan, We Banjo 3, Mick Flannery, The Stunning and Mary Coughlan.



## Na hEalaíontóirí

Is ealaíontóir léirithe í **Áine Phillips** atá lonnaithe i nGaillimh agus í ag taispeáint agus ag cur a cuid shaothair i láthair laistigh agus lasmuigh d'Éirinn ó dheireadh blianta na 8oidí. Tá saothar ealaíne cumtha aici do raon fairsing na gcomhthéacsanna; coimisiúin na healaíne poiblí, na sráide, imeachtaí na clubanna, na bhféilte, na ngailearaithe, na n-amharclanna agus na músaem agus iad dírithe ar phobail agus ar spéise na háite. Baineann a cuid saothair le fealsúnacht agus le polaitíocht na feimineachta, agus úsáid á bhaint as an ealaín chun trácht agus tairiscintí a dhéanamh ar an tsuibhiachtúlacht, ar an inscne agus ar an athrú sóisialta.

Scríbhneoir atá lonnaithe i nGaillimh í **Emily Cullen**, file Cónaitheach Meskell in Ollscoil Luimnigh ina dtugann sí léachtaí ar an MEal sa Scríbhneoireacht Chruthaitheach. Tá trí chnuasach filíochta foilsithe aici. Bhí cónaitheacht filíochta ag Emily i bPobalscoil Mhic Dara, Carna, Co. na Gaillimhe, i Scoil Náisiúnta an Chaisleáin Ghearr agus in Ionad Tyrone Guthrie. I measc na gcoimisiún a fuair sí, tá: Féile Liteartha Dhrom Inbhir na bliana 2022, Coiste Deich mBliain na gCuimhneachán de chuid Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe na bliana 2021 agus Féile Idirnáisiúnta na Filíochta Bhéal na mBuillí na bliana 2020.

Tá an t-amhránaí, cumadóir amhrán agus ilionstraimí **Tracy Bruen** lonnaithe i nGaillimh. Meascann agus lúbann a stíl cheoil an ceol tíre agus an popcheol le tionchair an chlasaicis agus na hamharclainne chun cumadóireachta na cumhachta agus na leochaileachta a chruthú. Le deich mbliana anuas, tá camchuairt fhorleathan á dhéanamh ag Tracy ar fud na hÉireann agus na hEorpa. Eisíodh a céad albam, Mirror, sa bhliain 2017. Tá an-chuid seanma faighte ag na singil ón dara albam aici Waiting, a eisíodh i mí Eanáir na bliana 2023, ar an raidió náisiúnta agus réigiúnach. Tá tionlacan déanta aici le mórán ealaíontóirí ar ardphróifíl ar nós Lisa Hannigan, We Banjo 3, Mick Flannery, The Stunning agus Mary Coughlan.

## Thank you

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We extend our sincere gratitude to the talented artists and the remarkable women of Galway City, who have joined forces to craft an exceptionally beautiful and memorable collection of artworks and performances. A special and heartfelt thank you is also due to our esteemed historians and experts, Mary Clancy, Dr Angela Griffith, and Therese McIntyre, for their invaluable contributions to exchanging and preserving the historical narratives and stories of Irish women of 1923.

Thank you to St Nicholas Collegiate Church and the community volunteers from Galway Volunteer Centre.

We wish to express our appreciation to our delivery partners - Galway City Council, Galway Public Libraries, and Galway City Museum for their support in devising and producing this event. And finally, to our funders the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports, and Media supported through the Decade of Centenaries 2012 - 2023 initiative.

After the performances, there will be an opportunity to meet the artists and members of the groups, providing a chance to connect with the creative minds behind this inspiring project.

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## Buíochas

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Gabhaimid ár mbuíochas ó chroí leis na healaíontóirí cumasacha agus le mná iontacha Chathair na Gaillimhe, a tháinig le chéile chun cnuasach sár-álainn ar leith de shaothair ealaíne agus de léirithe a chur le chéile. Gabhaimid mór-bhuíochas ó chroí chomh maith lenár staraithe agus lenár saineolaithe iomráiteacha, Mary Clancy, an Dr Angela Griffith, agus Therese McIntyre, as an obair fhíorthabhachtach a rinne siad ar insintí agus ar scéalta stairiúla mhná na hÉireann ón mbliain 1923 a mhalartú agus a chaomhnú.

Míle buíochas le Séipéal Choláisteach San Nioclás agus le hoibrithe deonacha an phobail ó Ionad Saorálaithe na Gaillimhe.

Is mian linn ár mbuíochas a ghabháil lenár gcomhpháirtithe seachadta - Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe, Leabharlanna Poiblí na Gaillimhe, agus Músaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe - as an tacaíocht a thugadar d'fhonn na himeachta seo a chur le chéile agus a léiriú. Agus, ar deireadh, lenár maoinitheoirí, an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán, as an tacaíocht a thug sí dúinn tríd an tionscnamh Deich mbliain na gCuimhneachán 2012 - 2023.

Tar éis na léirithe, beidh seans ann bualadh leis na healaíontóirí agus baill na ngrúpaí, ag tabhairt deis nasc a dhéanamh leis na meoin cruthaitheacha a bhí taobh thiar den tionscadal spreagúil seo.

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# Reflections

A COMMEMORATION OF THE IRISH WOMEN OF 1923  
MAR CHOMÓRADH AR MHNÁ ÉIREANNACHA 1923

**GALWAY CITY COUNCIL, GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES,  
AND GALWAY CITY MUSEUM CELEBRATE “REFLECTIONS”  
A COMMEMORATION OF THE IRISH WOMEN OF 1923.**



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



Comhairle Cathrach  
na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Council



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

